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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/626,110	07/23/2003	Vladan Mijailovic	AD#-155	8967

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EXAMINER

STERLING, AMY JO

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3632

DATE MAILED: 05/27/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/626,110

Applicant(s)

MIJAILOVIC, VLADAN

Examiner

Amy J. Sterling

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 January 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 9-21 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 23 July 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

This is the first Office Action for application number 10/626,110, Steadying Camera Support Platform, filed on 7/23/04. Claims 1-21 are pending. Claims 9-21 have been withdrawn as being drawn to a non-elected species.

Election/Restrictions

This application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct species of the claimed invention:

Species I: Figs. 1-5,

Species II: Figs. 6-7B,

Species III: Figs. 8 and 9

Applicant is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. Currently, no claim is generic.

Applicant is advised that a reply to this requirement must include an identification of the species that is elected consonant with this requirement, and a listing of all claims readable thereon, including any claims subsequently added. An argument that a claim is allowable or that all claims are generic is considered nonresponsive unless accompanied by an election.

Upon the allowance of a generic claim, applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim as provided by 37 CFR 1.141. If claims are added after the election, applicant must indicate which are readable upon the elected species. MPEP § 809.02(a).

Should applicant traverse on the ground that the species are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the species to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the inventions unpatentable over the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) of the other invention. Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

A telephone call was made to Richard Thomson on 5/18/04 to request an oral election to the above restriction requirement.

Claims 9-21 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a nonelected species, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Applicant has traversed the restriction (election) requirement in the telephone call, dated 5/18/04.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 1, lines 10-12 cites, "its cargo". It is unclear what is meant by the term cargo. The claim was examined as if the claim cited a "camera".

Claim 5 contains the trademark/trade name "TEFLON". Where a trademark or trade name is used in a claim as a limitation to identify or describe a particular material or product, the claim does not comply with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. See *Ex parte Simpson*, 218 USPQ 1020 (Bd. App. 1982). The claim scope is uncertain since the trademark or trade name cannot be used properly to identify any particular material or product. A trademark or trade name is used to identify a source of goods, and not the goods themselves. Thus, a trademark or trade name does not identify or describe the goods associated with the trademark or trade name. In the present case, the trademark/trade name is used to identify/describe "a material containing a low friction plastic" and, accordingly, the identification/description is indefinite.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

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A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-4, 6-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 1764721 to Hayden.

The patent to Hayden discloses a camera stead device having a support platform (33) and means (25, 27) for attaching a camera. (The camera is not considered as positively claimed, but merely as a functional statement of use). Hayden teaches a support shaft (3, 11) connected to the bottom surface of the platform, having a first upper portion (11), and a second lower portion (3), the first and second shafts being positionable within 60 degrees relative to each other and a locking mechanism (7) to lock them in place, a sphere (13) affixed to the upper portion of the support shaft (3, 11) which is permitted to pivot plus or minus 60 degrees about a roll and pitch axis and plus or minus 360 degrees about a yaw axis by being connected to a socket plate (15) has a first upper plate (17) with a first downwardly directed truncated spherical recess and a second lower plate (9) with a second upwardly directed truncated spherical recess, the recesses which pivotally captures the sphere (13) in a socket with a handle (43, 49, 59) which has a straight portion (43) and an fifteen degree angled portion (59), and a balance plate (86) connected to a bottom portion of the support shaft.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

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(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over United States Patent No. 1764721 to Hayden as applied to claims 1 and 4 above, and in view of United States Patent No. 4953852 to Donahue.

Hayden discloses applicant's basic inventive concept, all the elements which are shown above with the exception that it does not show that the sphere is made of Teflon.

Donahue shows a joint having a sphere (62) that is made of Teflon, used for its low frictional properties (See Col. 6, lines 20-24 for material selection). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made from the teachings of Donahue to have made the sphere of Teflon in order to have a low friction joint.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

The following documents show various stands with ball joints

6575653 to Krauter

6513774 to Hailson

6499706 to Sherlock et al.

6439518 to Brotz et al.

6254044 to Lee

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6220556 to Sohrt et al.

5806821 to Phillips et al.

5544968 to Goellner

4491435 to Meier

4158489 to Gottschalk et al.

3211405 to Fey et al.

2752116 to Minnis

2560884 to Nagourney

2136035 to Altemus et al.

1797893 to Zerk

1272574 to Thomas

116018 to Soresi

875034 to Wright

Re. 34120 to Plahn

Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Amy J. Sterling at telephone number 703-308-3271. The examiner can normally be reached (M-F 8 a.m.-5:00 p.m.). If attempts to reach the examiner are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Leslie Braun can be reached at 703-308-2156. The fax machine number for the Technology center is 703-872-9306 (formal amendments) or 703-308-3519 (informal amendments/communications).

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Technology Center receptionist at 703-308-2168.



AJS
Amy J. Sterling
5/18/04



LESLIE A. BRAUN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER